

role. Recently Gaddum and Vogt³ and Schwarz *et al.*⁸ reported that the injection of serotonin into cat ventricles did not change the response of the cat to subsequently administered LSD. Furthermore, brom LSD, methyl medmain and 5-benzoyloxygramine all antagonize the effect of serotonin on rat uterus. They do not prevent the central activity of serotonin in the ventricles and brom LSD does not produce psychological changes similar to LSD. The serotonin hypothesis does not receive support from these findings.

Briefly, this is the present status of the serotonin idea. It is much too early to come to some definite conclusion since a great deal of work remains to be done. The evidence suggests that the serotonin hypothesis may not be basic to the production of psychoses although it may have some function in central nervous system activity. However, there is no doubt that this hypothesis, following so closely in time the adrenochrome hypothesis put forward by Hoffer, Osmond and Smythies,⁴ has done a great deal of good in effecting a reconciliation between psychologist and physiologist—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

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THE CANADIAN DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

When the Canadian Diabetic Association grew out of a pilot unit in Ontario and became a national association in 1953, there was some head shaking about "another health society". Some members of the profession feared that such a lay-medical group would perhaps interfere in areas affecting diabetics which belong solely to the profession; there was also anxiety about the collection of "one more" fund. As things have turned out, these fears were groundless

and the Canadian Diabetic Association has proved itself a useful adjunct in the life of diabetics.

Areas which the busy practitioner cannot always cover are principally in the field of education, and in relation to certain social benefits and amenities. For instance, the detailed arrangement of a diet for a new diabetic is often difficult; where the services of skilled dietitians are wanting or limited, a real problem for the attending physician may develop. During the past three years a Diet Counselling Service provided at the request of the physician has been available in Ontario to meet this need, and it will shortly be extended to all parts of Canada.

Camps for diabetic children, once seen, will be accepted by all concerned. In 1956 there were five such camps in Canada, and their benefit to the diabetic child is unquestioned. These have been stimulated by the C.D.A., and in most cases supported by a service club.

The National Medical Advisory Board of the C.D.A., under the chairmanship of Dr. J. C. Beck of Montreal, is considering the many problems which have yet to be solved for diabetics. A manual for general use in Canada and a diet exchange list are in preparation and will be available shortly. A pilot Model School in Toronto, November 21 to 23, is designed to encourage the formation of continuing schools in those centres where they do not at present exist.

Serious problems of other kinds are to be considered on behalf of diabetics. The question of driving licences, and the difficulty of securing employment, are being studied by special committees. The provision of foods suitable for incorporation into the diabetic diet is being considered by a food committee, who have to encourage the packing of fruits and vegetables without sugar and then to see that they are distributed to all parts of Canada.

The intelligence of the diabetic has been shown to be above the general level (perhaps because the others have not survived!). His usefulness to the community is generally recognized, but there are certain limitations and definite prejudices to be overcome. It is in these areas that the Canadian Diabetic Association is fulfilling a most useful role. The doctors of Canada can stimulate and encourage this effort by presenting the facts to their patients. Copies of a brochure entitled "How Diabetics Help Themselves" are being sent to all physicians. Anyone who wishes this informative pamphlet may secure a copy by writing to the Canadian Diabetic Association, 96 Bloor Street West, Toronto 5, Ont. During Diabetes Week, November 14 to 21, they will be available in all Canadian drug stores.